



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

March 4, 2005

News Release

ALLEGED SMUGGLER CHARGED WITH EIGHT SMUGGLING COUNTS

MIAMI –Marcos Daniel Jiménez, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida; Jesus Torres, Special Agent-in-Charge, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE); and Rear Admiral D. Brian Peterman, Commander - 7th Coast Guard District, United States Coast Guard (USCG), announced today an Indictment returned on Feb. 16, 2005, by a federal grand jury sitting in Key West, Florida, charging defendant, Gustavo Ruiz-Rodriguez, with eight counts of alien smuggling, in violation of Title 8, United States Code, Section 1324(a)(2)(A).

On Thursday, the defendant made his initial appearance in federal court in Miami, Florida, following his arrest. If convicted, the defendant faces a maximum statutory term of one year in prison for each count.

On Nov.30, 2004, a USCG aircraft located a vessel approximately 30 miles south of the Marquesas Keys. USCG and ICE marine units responded to the location and encountered an unregistered 23' vessel. The vessel was found to contain eight Cuban nationals and one U.S. parolee from Cuba.

Mr. Jiménez commended the investigative efforts of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and the United States Coast Guard.

Assistant United States Attorney, Scott Ray is prosecuting the case.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.